

# City Lights

A Business-to-Business Publication from Marietta Power

Spring 2005

## Marietta Power Team Corrals Top Five Finishes at State and National Lineman's Rodeos

Marietta Power's team scored a top five finish against 60 teams from all over the country at the American Public Power Association's (APPA's) annual Lineman's Rodeo, which took place in Memphis on



April 16. The Marietta Power team then followed up that performance with its best finish ever in the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo in Perry in early May.

"Our team's impressive showing at both of these events reflects Marietta Power's

commitment to cultivating the skills that enable us to provide the best possible service to our customers," said Derek Hart, who coached the Marietta Power team. "The members of our Lineman's Rodeo team even came in on their days off to practice and prepare for the competitions. Their enthusiasm in getting ready for the rodeos says a lot about how much these guys enjoy their jobs and clearly demonstrates that they want to get better every day."

The Marietta team consisted of two three-man squads, each having two climbers and one groundsman. Climbers Bobby Watson and Brandon Wylie teamed with groundsman John Atcheson to form one squad. Climbers



Clark Galloway and Alan Matthews worked with groundsman Trinity Broome on the other. The APPA competition also featured events for apprentices, with Greg Reese and

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## Editorial Focus

### Marietta Development Authority Keeps Local Industrial Sector Growing Strong

The Marietta Development Authority has helped a wide range of businesses and educational institutions create career opportunities for area residents during its 15 years in existence.

"The Marietta Development Authority has authorized more than \$175 million in bonds since the city created it in 1989" said Ed Hammock, who serves as chairman of the authority's board. "The vast majority of the bonds have financed the expansion or improvement of existing facilities in our community."

Despite the authority's impressive track record, many members of the business community don't realize that it even exists. Many others confuse it with other agencies that have similar names or missions.

"Most people know that the county has a bond board, but most cities do not have their own bond boards," Hammock said. "Many people also confuse us with the Downtown Marietta Development Authority, which focuses entirely on the downtown business district. Likewise, we don't have any connection to the Marietta Redevelopment Corporation, which has the responsibility for redeveloping sites such as

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Jason Rodriguez representing Marietta Power.

"The events at the Lineman's Rodeos emphasize safety, so practicing for the competition helps us sharpen our skills in those areas," Watson said.

"The competitions also require us to use skills that we don't use every day on the job," said Wylie. "For starters, we don't climb every day anymore. In that respect,



the rodeos give us a taste of what our work was like before bucket trucks came along."

"Practicing different procedures used by other power companies also benefits us whenever we travel to assist areas affected by storms or other mass power outages," Galloway added.

The effort certainly paid off, as the Marietta Power Team turned in a strong showing in each of the events held in Memphis, finishing fifth overall. In the apprentice competition, Rodriguez came in second in a field of 68. Reese finished 13th

in his first apprentice competition.

"I finished sixth overall last year and wanted to finish on the podium this time, because I won't compete as an apprentice again," Rodriguez said.

The team carried its momentum over into the annual Georgia Lineman's Rodeo in Perry, where it again finished fifth overall. The results marked the first time that a Marietta Power team had ever finished in the top five in the state competition.

"The field in Perry included 30 teams from Georgia Power, EMCs around the state, and teams from nine other Georgia cities," Galloway said. "We had much tougher competition down there, but we still managed to win three events."

"We also won the municipal division in Perry," Matthews said.

"Every one of these guys deserves a lot of credit," Atcheson said. "Practicing these procedures every day is one thing, but getting the job done right when the time comes to pick up your tools is something else."

With their rodeo days now behind them for 2005, each member of the team looks forward to using his well-honed skills to keep Marietta Power customers up and running for the rest of the year. Yet they will still find time to begin preparing for the 2006 APPA Lineman's Rodeo in Sacramento, Calif., as well as next year's edition of the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo in Perry.

"We will try our best to win it all at both events next year," Wylie said. "That's what we're shooting for." ✈



(L to R): Coach Rodney Scarbro, Greg Reese, John Atcheson, Trinity Broome, Alan Matthews, Clark Galloway, Bobby Watson, Brandon Wylie, Jason Rodriguez, Coach Derek Hart.

## CityLights

is published by Marietta Power. Editor Peter Jonsson and the staff of *City Lights* welcome your questions, suggestions and comments. Address letters to:

## CityLights

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## Employee Profile



Tom Jones

## Tom Jones Part of Effort to Keep Marietta's Water and Sewer in Good Working Order

Marietta Water's Manager of Engineering, Tom Jones, is part of a team effort to keep the City of Marietta's water and sewer infrastructure in good working order.

"My primary responsibilities include managing the capital improvement program for our water and sewer infrastructure," Jones said. "The Board of Lights and Water (BLW) was allocated \$4 million for capital improvements during the next fiscal year. I have the responsibility for planning which projects we will tackle, and then seeing that the projects get completed on time and within budget."

He explained that the budget for the next fiscal year will fund approximately 6,000 feet of water line improvements and 3,000 feet of sewer line rehabilitation as well as

other major programs and equipment purchases. Jones added that much of that work would take place in areas undergoing redevelopment or revitalization, where new higher density developments are going up in areas with older infrastructure.

To assist him in accomplishing the BLW's goals, Jones has a core team that includes a project manager, project inspector, and GIS utility analyst. In all Marietta Water has a staff of 40 people who maintain 500 miles of infrastructure providing water and wastewater service to 50,000 people.

"We have a very good group of professionals who work here," Jones said. "25 of our field personnel have earned certifications from the State of Georgia as Water Distribution or Wastewater Collection System Operators." Marietta Water was selected as the "2001 Distribution System of the Year" by the Georgia Water and Pollution Control

Association (GW&PCA) and has received additional recognition from the GW&PCA and the American Water Works Association for various programs.

Jones joined Marietta Water 10 years ago after a decade with the Cobb County Water System. He went to work with the County after earning his civil engineering degree at Southern Polytechnic State University.

A Massachusetts native, Jones originally moved to Cobb County shortly after he graduated from high school. His parents also reside in the County, which makes it easy for them to spend time with Tom, his wife Judy, and the couple's three children. Tom and Judy Jones have two daughters, 14-year-old Melissa and 3-year-old Michelle, and a 2-year-old son named Matthew. ✎

### Marietta Development Authority Keeps Local Industrial Sector Growing Strong continued from page 1

the Johnnie Walker Homes property."

Instead, the Marietta Development Authority focuses almost exclusively on approving bonds for industrial operations within the city limits. The authority can also approve bonds that benefit learning institutions, but it does not issue bonds for retail enterprises.

To qualify for assistance from the authority, a proposed project must result in the creation of new jobs. The more new jobs a project will create, the more favorably board members will view the request. The company must also locate and meet the requirements of a financial institution willing to underwrite the bonds. Finally, a company must have a project large enough to ensure that the savings from the lower interest rates associated with the bonds will more than offset the legal expenses involved in submitting the documentation required to process its request.



"Our board members will usually approve a bond request after making sure that the request is in accordance with the law and the basic requirements," Hammock said. "Many businesses bring us requests on their own initiative. We also work closely with Marietta Industrial Development Manager Michael Donahoo and City Attorney Doug Haynie to identify opportunities that we can get involved in."

The fact that each board member represents one of the city's seven city council

wards also helps ensure that the authority gives equal consideration to requests from companies in all areas of Marietta. In addition to Hammock, the authority's board consists of John J. Elliott Jr., Mike Henderson, Jeanette Hunter, Shelia Hunter, Judy E. Renfroe, and Norma Whitaker.

"I encourage any company in Marietta that has an interest in seeking a bond to finance an expansion or improvement of its facilities to contact any member of our board and discuss the possibilities," Hammock said.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Marietta Development Authority, or in seeking its assistance, can also contact Michael Donahoo at (770) 794-5512 or Doug Haynie at (770) 422-8900. ✎

**July 18 through August 6**  
October 10 through November 5  
*The Library Dragon*  
Threatre in the Square  
Alley Stage  
Ms. Deedy brings her beloved story about a thick-skinned librarian with a burning love of books to the Alley Stage for more fire breathing family fun! Perfect for children ages 5 to 11.  
**Call (770) 422-8369 for information.**

**Friday, July 29**  
*Glover Park*  
*Concert Series*  
Marietta Square  
8 p.m.



The last Friday evening of each month April through August.  
**Call (770) 429-1115 for information.**

**Thursday, September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**  
*Brown Bag Concert Series*  
Marietta Square  
Noon to 1 p.m.  
Bring your brown bag lunch and enjoy free concert.  
A different performer every Thursday in September.  
Visit [www.marietta.ga.gov](http://www.marietta.ga.gov) or **call (770) 794-5601 for information.**

**September 10 through December 11**  
*The Native American Indian*  
Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art  
This exhibit features photography and paintings depicting Native American Indians and the rite of passage of a young girl.  
Visit [www.mariettacobbartmuseum.org](http://www.mariettacobbartmuseum.org) or **call (770) 528-1444 for more information.**

**Saturday, September 17**  
*13th Annual Antique Street Festival*  
Marietta Square  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Festivities include live entertainment, dining, demonstrations, a classic car show, and more. Visit [www.antiquesofmarietta.com](http://www.antiquesofmarietta.com) or **call (770) 429-1115 for information.**

**September 22 through October 1**  
*North Georgia State Fair*  
Jim R. Miller Park  
This fair is the largest in metro Atlanta and attracts nearly 300,000 people each year.  
Various rides and booths, flower shows, farm animals, and concerts.  
**Call (770) 423-1330 for information.**

**September 23 through January 15**  
*Home For The Holidays: 100 Years Of Christmases*  
Marietta Museum of History  
Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday 1 to 4 p.m.  
Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors and students, and free for members and children under 6.  
This exhibit features vignettes portraying holiday traditions and recreates holiday celebrations and décor from the last century.  
**Call (770) 528-0430 for information.**

**Friday, September 23**  
*Senior Day At The North Georgia State Fair*  
Jim R. Miller Park  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Bingo, games, cakewalk, exhibits, petting zoo, big prizes, and lots of entertainment!  
**Call (770) 528-5355 for information.**

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